

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 TAR-01 IO-10 CU-02 OES-03 AGR-05 INT-05

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O 221530Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0006

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 5106

PARIS FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON AND MR RUTHERFORD POATS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USTSJC TS

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 198852

1. SUMMARY: GOT STATES PROPOSED MEETINGS OVER WEEKEND
WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND HOPES JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS
COULD BE SCHEDULED PERIOD OCT 7-11 IF NOT POSSIBLE
HOLD TO ORIGINAL OCT 13 - 14 DATES. EMBASSY HOPES
EARLY SCHEDULING POSSIBLE BUT IS PREPARED URGE ACCEPTANCE
OCT 17 - 20 IF NO OTHER TIME POSSIBLE. GOT HAS ALSO
SUGGESTED CREATION OF THIRD SUBCOMMISSION TO
CONSIDER SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.
EMBASSY SUPPORTS SUGGESTING SINCE IT WOULD STRESS OTHER
AREAS WHERE US IS SUPPORTING TUNISIA AND FURTHER
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DECREASE IMPORTANCE IN GOT EYES OF BILATERAL OFFICIAL

ASSISTANCE. THIS SUBCOMMISSION WOULD REQUIRE SOME REARRANGEMENT OF PROPOSED ADENDA ITEMS. GOT HAS ALSO MADE FURTHER SUGGESTIONS ON COMMISSION MEETINGS, WHICH IT BELIEVES CAN BE HELD IN TWO DAYS IF NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS AUTHORIZED REFTTEL, EMBASSY DISCUSSED POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS WITH ACTING DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BEN YAHIA OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BEN YAHIA SAID VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN ADEQUATE TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION OVER WEEKEND. AT SAME TIME HE NOTED THAT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT BEYOND OCTOBER 20 MIGHT CAUSE CONFLICTS WITH OTHER SCHEDULED JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF BOTH GOVERNMENT RHGOUH END OF YEAR. HE SAID GOT WOULD REGRET IF MEETINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT OFF INTO 1976 AND HOPES THEY CAN BE HELD EARLY OCTOBER. HE SAID GOT WOULD MAKE ITSELF AVAILABLE OCT 7 (DAY AFTER AID SEGHIR HOLIDAY) THROUGH OCT 11, AS WELL AS OCT 13 - 14, IN HOPE MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED WITHIN THIS TIME PERIOD. (NOTE THAT OCT 15 ALSO LOCAL HOLIDAY.) WHILE AGREEABLE TO THREE-DAY FORMAT, HE EXPRESSED VIEW TWO DAYS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ASSURE SATISFACTORY MEETINGS. HE URGED THAT UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON SPEND MORE THAN ONE DAY TO PERMIT MEETINGS WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS PARTICIPATION IN COMMISSION PLENARY.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HOPES THAT IF OCT 13 - 14 NOT POSSIBLE FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON EVERY EFFORT BE MADE RESCHEDULE MEETINGS EARLIER IN MONTH. FOR EXAMPLE, PERIOD OCT 7 - 9 WOULD APPEAR FEASIBLE AND WOULD PERMIT UNDERSECRETARY ATTEND OCT 10 PREPCON MEETING. IN EVENT EARLIER MEETING NOT POSSIBLE, WE ARE PREPARED GO BACK TO GOT URGING ACCEPTANCE OF OCT 17 - 20 PERIOD BUT HOPE THIS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. SINCE MINISTRIES ONLY WORK HALF DAY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, BELIEVE WOULD BE NECESSARY HAVE OPENING PLENARY ON OCT 17. SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD REST OF MORNING OF 17TH AND MORNING OF 18TH WITH COURTESY CALLS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FOR AFTERNOON OCT 17. AFTERNOON OCT 18 AND ALL DAY OCT 19 WOULD BE FREE FOR PREPARATION OF COMMUNIQUE, PROCES VERBAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, OR FOR ORIENTATION VISITS IN TUNISIA. FULL JOINT COMMISSION ATTENDED BY UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON WOULD MEET OCT 20 AND APPROVE AND SIGN POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS AND FINAL REPORT. WE WOULD;JCH:RT8FW1*S JRF!
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O 221530Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0007
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PARIS FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON AND MR RUTHERFORD POATS

COMMENT: FOR SEVERAL REASONS -- INCLUDING DESIRABILITY
OF INFORMING HIGH-LEVEL TUNISIANS OF MANY ACTIVITIES
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY US TO FURTHER TUNISIA'S ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE OF CONTEXT OF OFFICIAL BILATERAL
AID AND GOT DESIRE TO CONCERNTRATE ON AID MATTERS IN
DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMISSION -- EMBASSY HAD ORIGINALLY
RECOMMENDED THAT VARIOUS FORMS OF NON-A.ID.D. SUPPORT
FOR TUNISIA BE RAISED DIRECTLY IN PLENARY OF JOINT
COMMISSION RATHER THANFIRST PASSED THROUGH SUB-
COMMISSION LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS, THIRD SUBCOMMISSION
PROPOSED BY TUNISIANS WOULD PROVIDE USEFULVEHICLE
TO GAIN GREATER TUNISIAN RECOGNITION OF SUCH US
ACTIVITIES AS SFCP VOLUNTARY AGENCIES NOT RELATED TO

A.I.D., CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (WHICH SUBJECT SEPTTEL),
PEACE CORPS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIIES, ETC. WHILE CONTRARY
TO OUR GENERAL DESIRE LIMIT NUMBER OF FORMAL COMMISSIONS,
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EMBASSY RECOMMENDS CONCURRENCE IN SUGGESTED SUBCOMMISSION.

B. FORMAT: BEN YAHIA RECOMMENDED SUBCOMMISSIONS
MEET AFTER SHORT OPENING PLENARY AND PREPARE ROUGHLY
THREE PAGE SUMMARY EACH OF MAJOR TOPICS PRESENTED BY
BOTH SIDES, INDICATING WHERE VIEWS OF BOTH SIDES COINCIDED
AND MAJOR CONCLUSIONS WHERE POSSIBLE. HE SUGGESTED
SUBCOMMISSION CHAIRMEN COULD SUBMIT DRAFT REPORTS TO
FULL COMMISSION PLENARY LATE IN MORNING OF SECOND DAY
FOR REVIEW, AMPLIFICATION OR CORRECTION, AND APPROVAL.
THESE REPORTS COULD BE COMBINED IN FINAL JOINT
COMMISSION REPORT FOR SIGNATURE BY FINAL CLOSING PLENARY
MEETING ON SECOND DAY OF FULL COMMISSION WHICH WOULD ALSO
BE OCCASION FOR SIGNING OTHER AGREEMENTS. HE NOTED
SECOND MEETING OF FULL COMMISSION MIGHT NOT BE REQUIRED
BUT HAS PROVEN USEFUL IN PAST TO EXPEDITE PREPARATION
OF FINAL PROCES VERBAL.

C. AGENDA: BEN YAHIA IDEA OF AGENDA IN LINE
THAT PROVIDED EMBASSY SEPARATELY EXCEPT THAT MANY NON-
A.I.D. TOPICS NOTED FOR SUBCOMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT
WOULD BE TREATED BY THIRD PROPOSED SUBCOMMISSION WHCIH
WOULD ALSO INCLUDE CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND PROBLEM OF
DEGREE EQUIVALENCE. HE FELT QUESTION OF RECYCLING
OF DINARS AND MONASTIR HOSPITAL SHOUD BE TREATED BY
SUBCOMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT. HE SUGGESTED GOT
AGREEABLE ALTERNATING CO-CHAIRMEN OF SUBCOMMISSIONS IF
DESIRED ACCRODING TO SUBJECT BEING TREATED. HE ALSO
SUGGESTED THAT POLITICAL AND SECURITY/MILITARY
MATTERS SHOULD NOT BE RAISED IN JOINT COMMISSION BUT
BE TREATED IN SEPARATE MORE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN TWO CO-CHAIRMEN OR OTHER OFFICIALS.
COMMENT: AGENDA PROPOSED BY WASHINGTON SEEMS GENERALLY
INCLUSIVE WITH EXCEPTION OF OMISSION IMPORTANT CULTURAL
EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SCHOLARSHIPS,
VISITORS, LECTURES, EXHIBITS, CULTURAL TROUPES, ETC.).
THESE WOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER THIRD SUBCOMMISSION WHICH
WOULD ALSO INCLUDE ACTIVITIES NOTED IN PARA 4A ABOVE.

D. AD HOC MEETINGS: BEN YAHIA SAW NO NEED
FOR AD HOC MEETINGS SINCE HE FELT SUGGESTED SUBCOMMISSION
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FORMAT WOULD BRING ALL INTERESTED TUNISIAN AGENCIES INTO CONTACT WITH US COUNTERPARTS ON ALL PERTINENT SUBJECTS. HE AGREED SPECIAL PERSONAL MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS COULD BE ARRANGED TO SUPPLEMENT THESE SESSIONS IF NECESSARY.

E. PAPERS: BEN YAHIA SAID GOT WILL PREPARE POSITION PAPERS IN SEPTEMBER ON SOME (BUT NOT ALL) OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED. THESE WOULD BE PROVIDED TO US SIDE IN ADVANCE WHERE POSSIBLE. EACH SUBCOMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN COULD PREPARE SHORT PRESENTATION FOR DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD BE COMBINED AND SERVE AS BASIS OF SUBCOMMISSION REPORT TO FULL COMMISSION. COMMENT: PAPERS SUGGESTED PARA E REFTEL (INCLUDING API) APPEAR FULLY ADEQUATE, AS DOES LIST OF BRIEFING PAPERS PROVIDED SEPARATELY (PARA F REFTEL). WE ARE NOT AWARE OF OTHER ISSUES TUNISIANS WILL RAISE.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS: BEN YAHIA HOPED USG COULD PROVIDE ONE OR TWO INTERPRETERS FOR MEETINGS AND SAID GOT WOULD PROVIDE THREE. SAID SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES NOT AVAILABLE IN CONFERENCE ROOMS WHERE MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

G. AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED: BEN YAHIA SAID ONLY AGREEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE READY FOR SIGNATURE WOULD BE SFCP MODEL AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLY NEW TRUST FUND AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT AID PROGRAM. HE FELT OUTCOME OF PROPOSED DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON DURING IMF/IBRD MEETING EARLY SEPTEMBER ON US-OWNED DINAR BALANCES WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER AGREEMENT WOULD BE READY FOR SIGNATURE DURING JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS.

5. EMBASSY PREPARING SEPTTEL DISCUSSING SOME IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN BE MORE FORTHCOMING AT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.
SEELYE

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